

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
Olympia, Washington**

<b>To:</b>	Pharmacists All Prescribers Nursing Home Administrators Managed Care Plans	<b>Memorandum No: 05-102 MAA</b>  <b>Issued:</b> November 28, 2005
<b>From:</b>	Douglas Porter, Assistant Secretary Health & Recovery Services Administration (HRSA)	<b>For information call:</b> 1-800-562-3022 or go to: <a href="http://maa.dshs.wa.gov/pharmacy/">http://maa.dshs.wa.gov/pharmacy/</a>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Prescription Drug Program: The Medicare Prescription Drug Program (Medicare Part D)</b>	

**Effective for dates of service on and after January 1, 2006**, the Health and Recovery Services Administration (HRSA), formerly MAA, will implement the Medicare Prescription Drug Program (Medicare Part D) for Medicare beneficiaries.

## **What is Medicare Part D?**

**Medicare Part D** is the new prescription drug benefit for Medicare beneficiaries, which was created by the federal Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003.

## **Who is eligible for Medicare Part D?**

**Part D Eligible Individual** means an individual who is entitled to, or enrolled in, Medicare benefits under Part A and/or Part B.

## **How does Medicare Part D change the Washington State Prescription Drug program?**

- Effective January 1, 2006, Medicare Part D will be responsible for the prescription drug needs of all Medicare-eligible clients including those previously served by Medicaid.
- Washington Medicaid will pay for a **few** drugs in the following categories, which are **not** covered by Medicare:
  - ✓ Over-the-counter (non-prescription) drugs,

- ✓ Barbiturates,
- ✓ Benzodiazepines,
- ✓ Products used in symptomatic relief of cough and colds,
- ✓ Prescription vitamins and mineral products, and
- ✓ Prescribed drugs used for weight gain (wasting).



Note: A detailed list of these drugs is covered in these categories can be found at <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov/MedicareDrugs/index.html>.

- Washington Medicaid **will not** pay for drugs included in Medicare Part D, even if the drug is not covered by a particular prescription drug plan.
- Dual-eligible clients (those entitled to medical coverage under both Medicare and Medicaid) will:
  - ✓ Be identified with a message - **MedicareRX - medical program identifier** on their Washington Medical Assistance Identification Card.
  - ✓ Pay a \$1-\$3 copay for each medication.
- Washington Medicaid clients who are **not** enrolled in Medicare will continue to receive their medications from the Washington Medicaid program.

### How do I become a Medicare provider?

For more information on how to become a Medicare provider, please see [www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov).

### Where do I find more information about Medicare Part D?

For more information on the transition from Washington Medicaid to Medicare Part D, please go to <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov/MedicareDrugs/index.html>.

### How do I conduct business electronically with Washington State Medicaid?

For information on how to conduct business electronically with Washington State Medicaid, go to: <http://wamedweb.acs-inc.com>.

## How can I get HRSA's provider issuances?

To obtain HRSA's provider numbered memoranda and billing instructions, go to HRSA's website at <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov> (click on the ***Billing Instructions/Numbered Memoranda*** or ***Provider Publications/Fee Schedules*** link).

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